



AG UPDATE — SPECIAL ISSUE

INVENTORY REPORT CATTLE, SHEEP, HOGS, CHICKENS

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Released: February 23, 2000

L L L SURVEY RESULTS

Special thanks to those of you who continue to supply the basic data needed to prepare reliable agricultural statistics for all data users.

The special issues of **AG UPDATE** are prepared primarily for those producers who requested survey results through their participation in one or more of the numerous agricultural surveys conducted by this office during the October 1999--January 2000 time period.. If you are not already receiving AG UPDATE twice a month and would like to receive future issues, please notify this office in writing or by calling our toll free number in Lakewood at (800-392-3202). Reports are also available on the Internet. Other NASS and Colorado reports are available at the following site:

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ALL CATTLE AND CALVES JANUARY 1, 2000

COLORADO

Colorado's farm and ranch operators had 3.15 million head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2000, down 2 percent from the 3.20 million on hand one year earlier. The number of beef cows was unchanged from a year earlier at 837,000 head. The number of milk cows, at 83,000, was also unchanged from the previous year.

There were 930,000 heifers weighing 500 pounds and over on hand at the beginning of this year, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Of that total, 150,000 were being kept for beef cow replacement (up 3 percent), and 40,000 were for milk cow replacement (down 11 percent). The remaining 740,000 were other heifers (up 3 percent) of which 520,000 were on feed for the slaughter market. The January 1, 2000 inventory also included 990,000 head of steers weighing 500 pounds or more (down 5 percent) and 650,000 of those were on feed for the slaughter market. The number of bulls weighing 500 pounds or more was unchanged from a year earlier at 50,000 head. The number of calves (steers, heifers, and bulls under 500 pounds) on hand January 1, 2000, at 260,000 head, was 7 percent below the previous year. The 1999 calf crop in Colorado, at 870,000 head, was unchanged from the 1998 calf crop.

Colorado feeders had 1,200,000 head of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market as of January 1, 2000 up 3 percent from the previous year. The on feed total at the

beginning of this year represented 38.1 percent of the total inventory compared with 36.3 percent one year earlier. More than 98 percent of the total number on feed (1,180,000 head) were in 162 feedlots that have a capacity of 1,000 head or more. During 1999, those feedlots marketed a new record high of 2,610,000 head of fed cattle for the slaughter market. In addition, there were 118 feedlots in the state that had a capacity of less than 1,000 head and those feedlots marketed 30,000 head of fed cattle for slaughter. Total marketings of fed cattle from all feedlots in the state for 1999 totaled 2,640,000 head.

The number of operations with cattle at any time during 1999 was down 3 percent from the previous year to 15,000. The number of beef cow operations was down 4 percent to 11,200 while the number of milk cow operations in 1999 remained unchanged for the third consecutive year at 900.

UNITED STATES

The January 1, 2000 inventory of all cattle and calves for the **United States** totaled 98.0 million head, 1 percent below the 99.1 million on hand the previous year and 2 percent below the January 1, 1998 total of 99.7 million. The total number of all cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.7 million, was slightly below the 42.9 million one year earlier and 1 percent below two years ago. Beef cows declined 1 percent to 33.5 million while milk cows were up 1 percent to 9.19 million. The inventory of all heifers weighing 500 pounds and over was down 1 percent to 19.5 million. Of that total, 5.53 million were being kept for beef cow replacement (down slightly), 3.95 million were intended for milk cow replacement (down 3 percent), and 10.0 million were other heifers (down

1 percent). The inventory of steers weighing 500 pounds and over, at 16.7 million, was down 1 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over were up 1 percent to 2.29 million, while the number of calves under 500 pounds on hand as of January 1, 2000 declined 3 percent to 16.8 million.

The 1999 calf crop was estimated at 38.7 million head, down slightly from the previous year and down 1 percent from 1997. There were 28.5 million calves born during the first half of the year, unchanged from 1998 but down slightly from 1997.

The January 1, 2000 number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in all states was estimated at 13.98 million, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The U.S. cattle on feed inventory in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head increased 7 percent from a year earlier to 11.46 million and represented 82 percent of the total U.S. cattle on feed inventory.

The number of operations with cattle, at just under 1.1 million for 1999, was down 2 percent from 1998 and 5 percent below 1997. The number of operations with beef cows was down 1 percent, dropping from 855 thousand in 1998 to 843 thousand in 1999. The number of operations with milk cows dropped 5 percent to 111,220 in 1999 compared with 117,180 in 1998.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

JANUARY 1, 2000

COLORADO

The January 1, 2000 inventory of all sheep and lambs in **Colorado** totaled 440,000 head, unchanged from a year earlier. The number of breeding sheep and lambs declined 5 percent from the previous year to 210,000 head. The number of market sheep and lambs, at 230,000, was up 5 percent from the 220,000 on hand one year earlier.

The number of ewes one year old and older was down 5 percent from last year to 175,000 head. Rams one year old and older, at 6,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year and the number of replacement lambs, at 29,000 head, was also unchanged from a year earlier. The number of market sheep and lambs on hand as of January 1, 2000 totaled 230,000 head. Of that total, only 1,000 head were market sheep. The remaining 229,000 head were lambs distributed among four weight groups (with the percent change from a year earlier) as follows: 4,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds (down 43 percent); 6,000 lambs weighing 65-84 pounds (up 20 percent); 47,000 lambs weighing 85-104 pounds (down 10 percent); and 172,000 lambs weighing 105 pounds and over (up 11 percent).

The 1999 lamb crop of 210,000 head was 5 percent below the previous year. There were 1,500 operations in Colorado with sheep and/or lambs during 1999, down from 1,700 operations a year earlier.

UNITED STATES

The January 1, 2000 all sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** totaled 7.03 million head, down 3 percent from 1999 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942 when all sheep and lambs reached it's peak of 56.2 million head. The breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.16 million head as of January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from the 5.30 million head on hand one year earlier. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.23 million head, were down 2 percent to a new record low. The number of market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2000 totaled 1.86 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1999. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. For market lambs, 24 percent (451,000 head, down 8 percent from a year ago) weighed under 65 pounds, 17 percent (313,000 head, down 5 percent) were in the 65-84 pound weight group, 26 percent (477,000 head, down 7 percent) weighed 85-105 pounds, and 29 percent (542,000 head, up 8 percent) weighed over 105 pounds.

The 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head was down 6 percent from 1998 to a new record low. The 1999 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1999, compared with 110 in 1998. The number of operations with sheep during 1999 totaled 66,800, down 3 percent from 1998 and down 8 percent from 1997.

HOGS AND PIGS

DECEMBER 1, 1999

COLORADO

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of December 1, 1999 totaled 910,000 head, up 5 percent from a year earlier to yet another record high level for the state for the third consecutive year. The December 1, 1997 inventory of 790,000 head was the largest inventory since 1944 when 774,000 hogs and pigs were on hand. This is the fourteenth consecutive year in which inventory numbers have been unchanged or higher than the previous year.

The latest inventory consisted of 210,000 breeding hogs and pigs, up 17 percent from the 180,000 on hand one year earlier. The number of market hogs and pigs increased 1 percent from 690,000 head as of December 1, 1998 to 700,000 on hand as of December 1, 1999. The 1999 pig crop in Colorado totaled 2.80 million head, up 14 percent from the previous year. There were 332,000 sows farrowed during the year, up 46,000 head (16 percent) from last year. The average litter size of 8.4 pigs in 1999 compares with 8.6 pigs per litter in 1998.

There were just 500 operations with hogs in Colorado during 1999, down 500 from the previous year. Following the trend in the United States, an increasing number of hogs and pigs are under the control of fewer operations.

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Livestock and Poultry: Inventory by Class, Colorado and United States, 1997-2000

Specie and Class	Colorado				United States			
	January 1			2000	January 1			2000
	1998	1999	2000	1999	1998	1999	2000	1999
	1,000 Head			Percent	1,000 Head			Percent
All Cattle and Calves 1/	3,250	3,200	3,150	98	99,744	99,115	98,048	99
All cows & heifers that have calved ...	940	920	920	100	43,084	42,878	42,734	100
Beef cows and heifers	856	837	837	100	33,885	33,745	33,546	99
Milk cows and heifers	84	83	83	100	9,199	9,133	9,188	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over	940	910	930	102	19,800	19,774	19,529	99
For beef cow replacement	150	145	150	103	5,764	5,535	5,530	100
For milk cow replacement	45	45	40	89	3,986	4,069	3,954	97
Other heifers	745	720	740	103	10,051	10,170	10,045	99
Steers 500 pounds and over	1,060	1,040	990	95	17,189	16,891	16,652	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over	50	50	50	100	2,270	2,281	2,294	101
Steers, heifers, & bulls < 500 lbs.	260	280	260	93	17,401	17,290	16,840	97
Cattle on feed 2/	1,140	1,160	1,200	103	13,608	13,219	13,983	106
All Sheep and lambs	575	440	440	100	7,825	7,215	7,026	97
Breeding sheep and lambs	240	220	210	95	5,611	5,299	5,163	97
Ewes one year old and older	200	185	175	95	4,570	4,322	4,228	98
Rams one year old and older	7	6	6	100	203	203	206	101
Replacement lambs	33	29	29	100	839	774	730	94
Market sheep and lambs	335	220	230	105	2,214	1,916	1,863	97
Sheep	2	1	1	100	91	83	80	96
Lambs	333	219	229	105	2,123	1,834	1,783	97
Under 65 pounds	2	7	4	57	531	490	451	92
65 - 84 pounds	2	5	6	120	346	328	313	95
85 - 104 pounds	115	52	47	90	635	513	477	93
105 pounds and over	214	155	172	111	611	502	542	108
	December 1				December 1			
	1997	1998	1999	99 / 98	1997	1998	1999	99 / 98
	1,000 Head			Percent	1,000 Head			Percent
All Hogs and pigs	790	870	910	105	61,158	62,206	59,407	96
Breeding hogs and pigs	160	180	210	117	6,957	6,682	6,244	93
Market hogs and pigs	630	690	700	101	54,200	55,523	53,164	96
Under 60 pounds	300	335	350	104	20,237	20,140	19,298	96
60 - 119 pounds	115	120	115	96	13,319	13,631	13,106	96
120 - 179 pounds	105	120	110	92	11,188	11,585	11,073	96
180 pounds and over	110	115	125	109	9,457	10,168	9,687	95
All Chickens	4,718	4,597	4,479	97	410,030	425,045	436,326	103
Total layers	3,670	3,737	3,800	102	312,137	321,718	329,305	102
One year old and older	1,910	2,250	1,052	47	140,966	151,298	151,914	100
Less than one year	1,760	1,487	2,748	185	171,171	170,420	177,391	104
Pullets	872	730	510	70	90,344	95,645	97,362	102
13 to 20 weeks of age	229	180	210	117	35,578	39,664	38,587	97
Less than 13 weeks of age	643	550	300	55	54,766	55,981	58,775	105
Other chickens	176	130	169	130	7,549	7,682	9,659	126

1/ U. S. total may not add due to rounding. 2/ Included in all cattle.

Calf, Lamb, and Pig Crops, Colorado and United States, 1997-99

Specie	Colorado				United States			
	1997	1998	1999	99 / 98	1997	1998	1999	99 / 98
	1,000 Head			Percent	1,000 Head			Percent
Calf Crop, annual	870	870	870	100	38,961	38,812	38,710	100
Lamb Crop, annual	225	220	210	95	5,356	5,007	4,719	94
Sows Farrowed, annual 1/	200	286	332	116	11,479	12,061	11,666	97
December- May	2/	2/	2/	...	5,595	6,015	5,877	98
June - November	2/	2/	2/	...	5,885	6,047	5,789	96
Pig Crop, annual	1,700	2,452	2,800	114	99,584	105,005	102,569	98
December - May	2/	2/	2/	...	48,393	52,469	51,517	98
June - November	2/	2/	2/	...	51,190	52,536	51,052	97

1/ U.S. total may not add due to rounding. 2/ Discontinued.

HOGS AND PIGS **DECEMBER 1, 1999**

(Continued from page 2)

UNITED STATES

The **U.S.** inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999, was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below one year earlier and 2 percent below the September 1, 1999 inventory. The **breeding inventory**, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998 and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. The **market hog inventory**, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year and 2 percent below the last quarter.

The total 1999 pig crop for the United States totaled 102.57 million head, 2 percent below the 105.00 million for 1998. There were 11.7 million sows farrowed during the year, with just under 6.0 million farrowing during each of the two six month periods. The average litter size for the year was 8.79 pigs with the average during the first half being 8.77 and the average for the second half being 8.82. In 1998, there were 12.06 million sows farrowed and the average litter size was 8.71 pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period last year and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for the March-May 2000 quarter, at 2.83 million sows are 5 percent below the comparable period last year and 8 percent below 1998.

The number of operations with hogs in the United States totaled 98,460 during 1999, down 14 percent from 1998. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 7 percent of the total operations and 69 percent of the inventory. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the operations with 2,000 or more hogs have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 2,005, accounted for 46.5 percent of the total inventory. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U. S. hog inventory, up from 23 percent last year.

ALL CHICKENS **DECEMBER 1, 1999**

COLORADO

The all chicken inventory in **Colorado** as of December 1, 1999 totaled 4.48 million birds, down 3 percent from the 4.60 million on hand one year earlier. The number of layers increased 2 percent from the previous year to 3.80 million. Of that total, 1.05 million were one year old and older (down 53 percent) and 2.75 million were less than one year of age

(up 85 percent). The total inventory also included 510,000 pullets (down 30 percent) that were less than 20 weeks of age. Of that total, there were 300,000 less than 13 weeks of age (down 45 percent) and 210,000 between 13 and 20 weeks of age (up 17 percent). The remaining inventory of 169,000 other chickens represented an increase of 30 percent from the previous year.

During the period December 1, 1998 through November 30, 1999, Colorado laying flocks produced 921 million eggs. This was down 3 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. The number of layers averaged 3.54 million for the year with an average laying rate of 260 eggs per layer. The December 1, 1999 inventory value of all chickens was estimated at \$12.09 million, up 10 percent from \$11.03 million a year earlier. The average value per bird, at \$2.70, was 30 cents per bird higher than the December 1, 1998 value per bird.

UNITED STATES

The December 1, 1999 inventory of all chickens (excluding broilers) in the **United States** totaled 436 million, up 3 percent from the previous year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1999 totaled 368 million, up 2 percent from December 1, 1998. Of the 368 million potential layers, 90 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The inventory value of all chickens, at \$1.15 billion, was up 1 percent from \$1.14 billion a year earlier. The average value of \$2.65 per bird was down 4 cents from \$2.69 per bird last year.

Number of Operations, Colorado and United States, 1997-99

Area and Item	Number of Operations ^{1/}		
	1997	1998	1999
Number			
Colorado:			
All Cattle	14,700	15,500	15,000
Beef Cows	10,200	11,700	11,200
Milk Cows	900	900	900
Sheep	1,600	1,700	1,500
Hogs	1,200	1,000	500
United States:			
All Cattle	1,148,050	1,115,650	1,095,960
Beef Cows	872,840	855,460	843,230
Milk Cows	123,700	117,180	111,220
Sheep	72,680	68,550	66,800
Hogs	122,160	113,830	98,460
Chickens	2/	2/	2/

^{1/} Any place having one or more head of the species on hand at any time during the year.

^{2/} Not estimated.

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